

Jews Favored in Russia

by Alvin Ross

WE HAVE been reading the magazine *Soviet Russia Today*, issue of November, 1946, published monthly by the Soviet Russia Today Publications, Inc., 114 East 32nd Street, New York 16, New York.

On Page 14, there is a revealing article, "Where Anti-Semitism is a Crime," by Louis Levine, at that time national president of the Jewish Council for Russian Relief, a member of the executive committee of the World Jewish Congress, and administrative member of the American Jewish Congress. He is a past grand master of the Independent Order of Brith Sholom. We quote verbatim from his 1946 article: "*Outstanding Leader of American Jewry finds no traces of the scourge in his recent visit to the Soviet Union.*"

"At a reception this summer of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee in Moscow, a tall, sturdy Red Army man approached and, in faultless Yiddish, requested that I bring back a message to American Jews. 'Go Back,' he said, 'and tell the

Jews of America that you spoke to and shook hands with a real Jewish general, and that this general was among his own people.'

"In these few words, the Soviet military leader summed up the historic story of the Jewish population, estimated at 3,000,000 of the U.S.S.R.

"Anti-Semitism in any shape, form or manner simply does not exist in the Soviet Union.

... "The Soviet Government has recognized many problems peculiar to the Jewish people, and has taken daring steps to meet them. Desire among some Jews for a homeland within the USSR, for instance, brought about the establishment of the Birobidzhan Autonomous Region, the only Jewish state in the world. And at the outset of the war, as we all know, Jews were among the first evacuated from the western regions threatened by the Hitlerite invaders, and shipped to safety east of the Urals. The government knew they had been selected by the invading Nazis as special targets of destruction, and thus

extended first consideration to them.

"Moreover, similar preference was accorded Jews from near-by countries. *Almost 800,000 Jews streaming across the Polish border also were sent to the east. All in all, the Soviet Government rescued almost 2,000,000 Jews from the path of the Hitlerite advance.*"

SPECIAL concern for the Jewish people has characterized the Soviet Union since its birth in the 1917 Revolution. A week after tsarism was overthrown, the infant Socialist government, headed by Lenin, legally abolished national oppression, making it the *first* country in the world to *declare anti-Semitism a crime.*

"... The center of Jewish life in the Soviet Union is the extremely active and influential Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee with chapters throughout the USSR. The views of the Committee, a non-government agency, always receive serious consideration by the government. When I spoke to government officials about the Jewish Council or the Soviet Jews, I was generally asked 'What does Mikhoels think about it?' or I was told that 'If it is OK with

the Committee, it is OK with us.'

"Professor Solomon Mikhoels, the inspiring leader of the Committee, is one of the outstanding personalities of the entire Soviet Union. Director of the Moscow Jewish State Theater, one of the chief cultural centers of Moscow.

"... Incidentally, more so in the Soviet Union than in any other country in the world, Jewish literature, theater, poetry is considered basic to a full cultural life.

"... The Committee issues an almost endless stream of newspapers, magazines, pamphlets and books. They are, of course, written in Yiddish and cover the vast range of culture and tradition and every expression of social, political and economic life.

"... Dr. Shimeliovich's greetings to me, following my presentation of the Jewish Council's 'American Jewry Book of Friendship,' were particularly enlightening. He said:

"*'The aid that the Jews in America gave to the Soviet Union was a great contribution toward the first against fascism and also toward the strengthening of friendship between the Soviet peoples and the people of America.'*

"... The Jewish people are

unanimous in their love for Stalin. They regard him as the greatest friend of the Jewish people. They attribute to his understanding of national minorities and to his leadership the *new, exalted status of the Soviet Jews*.

"I need not add that the Soviet Jews greeted with joy the news that Stalin and the father of his prospective Jewish son-in-law drank 'lachaim' together in the Kremlin!

"Another name the Soviet Jews mentioned with reverence was Roosevelt. . . .

THE DESIGNER of the Soviet destroyed plane, Chaim Levetchkia, is active in Jewish affairs, and Solomon Lozovsky, former Soviet Vice-Foreign Minister and now head of the Soviet Information Bureau, is keenly interested in the affairs of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee and frequently attends synagogue. Other noted regular worshippers include Mrs. Pearl Molotov and Mrs. Voroshilov.

". . . The attitude of multitudes of Jewish people all over the world towards the Soviet policy was aptly summed up by Dr. Stephen S. Wise, president of the American and World Jewish Congresses. Speaking last May before 2,500 delegates and guests at the Fifth Annual Conference of the Jewish Council, Dr. Wise declared:

" 'As a Jew I want Jews to do all they can, and more than they can, for the Soviet Union and its peoples, not only because our countries ought to be bound within the bonds of a common understanding and a common comradeship, but also because while other nations—I name them not—talk about themselves as the enemies of fascism, the Soviet Union is decades and generations ahead of the rest of the world in combatting and crushing one of the most terrible tokens and symbols of fascism—namely, anti-Semitism.'

"For the Jewish people of the Soviet Union, the age-old story of anti-Semitism has been ended."

Moon Shot Hoax?

In Washington, the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory reports that the Soviet moon rocket, Lunik III, did not travel around the moon and did not photograph its hidden side—*The New Letter*, Los Angeles.